

RESULTS OF USEPA SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PILOT REVIEW

Opportunities to Advance Sustainability in California's Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program

Clean Water State Revolving Fund

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Item 14



Partnership for Sustainable Communities

- Started in 2009 as Multi-Agency effort
 - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)
 - U.S Department of Transportation (DOT)
 - U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- Mission: to work together to encourage and fully assist rural, suburban, and urban areas to build sustainable communities, and to make sustainable communities the leading style of development in the United States



“Sustainability” and the CWSRF

- RESOLUTION NO. 2005-0006 (January 20, 2005)
 - Sustainability is a core value for all Water Boards’ activities and programs.
 - Staff must consider sustainability in all future policies, guidelines, and regulatory actions.
 - Workgroup meeting May 10, 2005 with partners & stakeholders to solicit input for CWSRF Policy changes.
- RESOLUTION NO. 2005-0063 (September 22, 2005)
 - Incorporate sustainability of water resources into the CWSRF Policy.
- EPA PISCES Award (November 2005)
 - Based on Resolution No. 2005-0006, the work with housing, transportation, and resource agencies and organizations, and CWSRF policy changes.
- RESOLUTION NO. 2008-0030 (May 6, 2008)
 - Reaffirmed commitment to sustainability as a core value.
 - Require and integrate LID, climate change, water recycling/conservation into policies, guidelines, and regulatory actions.

What are Sustainable Communities?

From a CWSRF perspective, sustainable communities means providing financing for:

- Projects that emphasize maintaining and upgrading existing infrastructure
- Thoughtful, long-term water quality investments
- Projects that support and revitalize existing communities

Overview and Process

In 2010 USEPA's Office of Water and Office of Sustainable Communities sponsored a pilot review for 3 states

- Maryland
- New York
- California

The Pilot review proceeded in 3 major steps

1. USEPA reviewed CA law and policies related to sustainability
2. USEPA developed a matrix of 11 approaches to community sustainability, and cross-referenced these with California's current practices
3. USEPA and Division of Financial Assistance identified which options are feasible for the CWSRF Program

Goal and Outcome

- Goal of Pilot Review was to investigate ways to modify the CWSRF Program's policies, procedures and management approach to encourage sustainable community development and look for ways to integrate the principles of the HUD-DOT-EPA Sustainable Communities Partnership into CWSRF programs
- Outcome of Pilot Review was a set of options for the State Water Board to consider for modifying its CWSRF Policy, procedures, or management approach
- Report from USEPA: *Opportunities to Advance Sustainability in California's Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program*

Feasible Options for Sustainable CWSRF

1. Re-examine priority setting and technical review requirements.
2. Standardize and simplify application processing
3. Partner with Strategic Growth Council
4. Designate a “Demand Manager”
5. Provide larger utilities incentives to help small communities be sustainable.

EcoCenter at Heron's Head Park

Project reduces dependency on the potable water supply through storage and reuse of rainwater



Treated-water discharge area behind protective fence.



Final polishing treatment wetland & educational sign inside the EcoCenter.

Project Components:

- Green roof
- Solar array
- Stormwater harvesting system with 2 rain cisterns
- Wetland treatment system

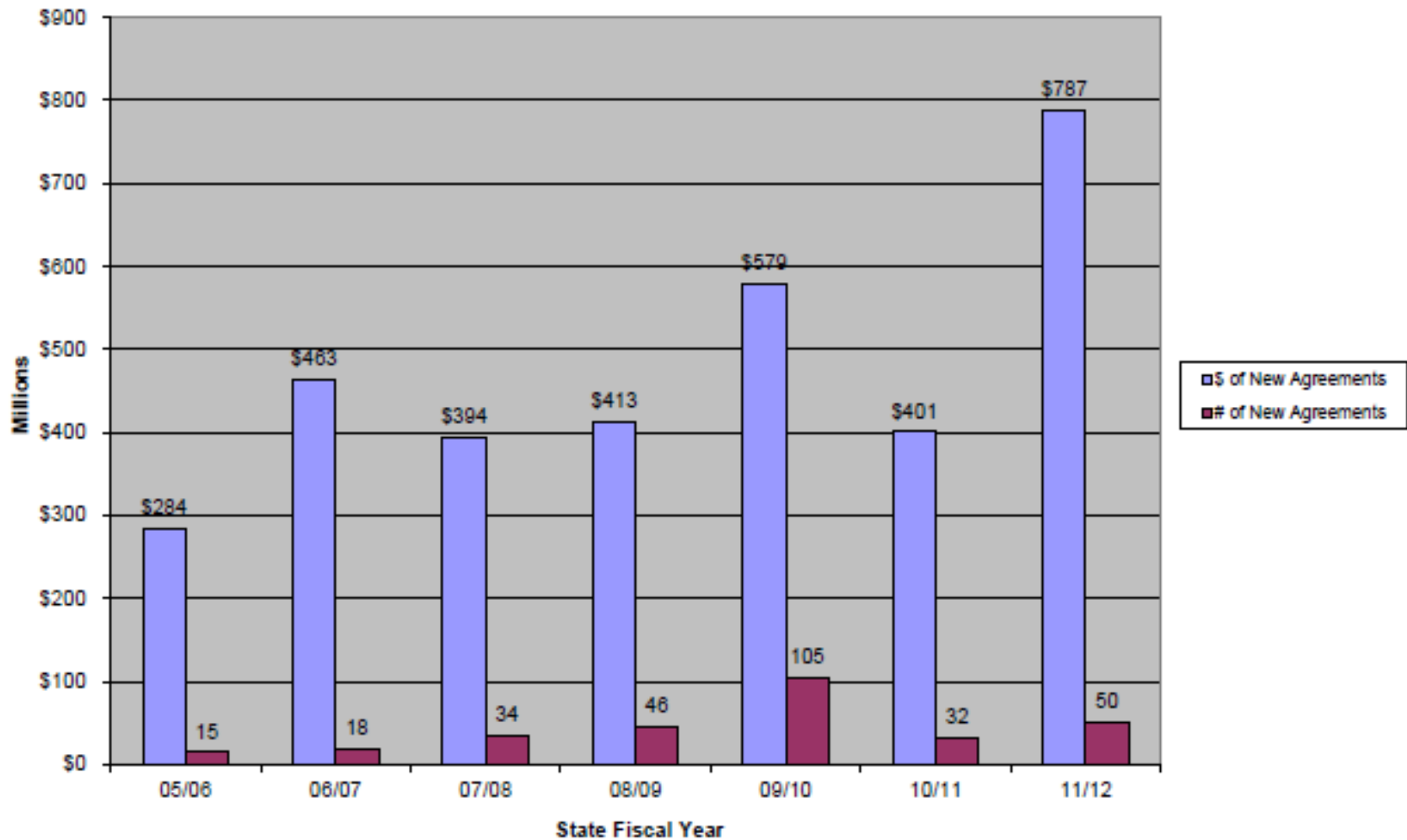
Key to Influencing Community Choices is Demand

- Communities have other choices for financing
- Avoid changes that discourage applications
- Make program as attractive as possible while maintaining strong finances.



CWSRF Program Performance

CWSRF Financing Activity



CWSRF Application Improvements

- Streamlining Application
 - Online application
 - Electronic routing
 - Organized application packages
 - Standardized certifications
- Benefits of Streamlining
 - Communities spend less resources to apply
 - State spends less resources to review and approve
 - Increased transparency
 - Increased demand and sustainability



Stakeholder Involvement



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CONSERVATION FUND

Status of CWSRF Application and Policy Revision



- Rollout schedule for application and instruction package
 - Stakeholder review (September 2012)
 - Public Review (October/November 2012)
- Rollout schedule for CWSRF Policy
 - Division Review (August/September)
 - Public Comment Period (September/October)
 - CWSRF Policy to the Board (Late 2012)

Implementation

- Create more demand for financing so the State Water Board can influence the selection of more sustainable projects through the priority system
 - Revise application (in progress)
 - Revise Policy (in progress)
- Incorporate SGC into Division's marketing efforts
- Investigate feasibility of Demand Manager
- Coordinate with stakeholders
- Anticipated Roll-out new SRF Application in 2013

Questions??